



**SHELBY COUNTY  
COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS**  
SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 140 ADAMS AVENUE, ROOM 110  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103-2018

**LONNIE B. THOMPSON**  
JUDGE OF DIVISION VI

July 13, 2009

Honorable Deidre Malone  
Chairwoman  
Shelby County Board of Commissioners  
160 North Main, Ste. 425  
Memphis, Tn. 38103

Dear Chairwoman Malone:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with Judge Potter and I on Thursday, July 9, 2009. I appreciate your willingness to hear and consider our request to restore funding to our budget account used for training related travel purposes. Attached is the information you requested at that meeting which will give you some insight into the funding needs of our Court.

I would like to take this opportunity to again point out that our attendance of the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference is not only statutorily mandated, it is statutorily mandated for the cost of attendance to be provided out of the County general fund. Although we must attend the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference per said statute, this conference does not always provide a wide variety of courses specific to General Sessions Civil Court. The reason for this is that in the majority of Tennessee counties, the General Sessions Judges have both Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction and the courts are not split as is the case in Shelby County. In the other counties, the Criminal docket comprises most of the cases handled, again, not so in Shelby County. Also, Shelby County has several specialized Courts, where other Tennessee counties do not; specifically the Environmental Court, the Drug Court, the Domestic Violence Court, as well as the Emergency Mental Commitments heard by the General Sessions Civil Court Judges three times per week. The Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference offers excellent training and educational opportunities specific to our Courts. I have listed some of the courses offered at the Bench Bar for the past three conferences in the attached information.

The Judges of the General Sessions Civil Courts are respectfully requesting that the County Commission increase the travel budget to **\$16,200.00** or six (6) Judges at **\$2,700.00 per Judge**. We feel this amount is necessary and vital to ensure that the

Judges of Shelby County are adequately up to date and abreast of changing laws and legal issues affecting our court and community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,



Judge Lonnie B. Thompson

## **General Sessions Civil Court Judges**

### **FY 09-10 Funding**

#### **Account Number 6467 – Training Related Travel:**

\$7,000.00                                  6 Judges at \$1167.00 per Judge

### **FY 08-09 Funding**

#### **Account Number 6467 – Training Related Travel**

\$14,000.00                                  6 Judges at \$2333.00 per Judge

**Amount needed** per Judge to attend the **mandatory** Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference and the Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference:

**\$16,200.00                                  6 Judges at \$2,700.00 per Judge**

## **Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference Course Listing**

### **2009 Bench Bar Conference:**

Fair Debt Collection  
Bankruptcy and It's Impact On Other Areas  
Legislative Updates  
Supreme Court Decisions  
Tortious Interference with Business Contracts

### **2008 Bench Bar Conference:**

E Discovery  
The Sub-Prime Mortgage Fallout (Judge Gardner, General Sessions Civil Court Div. 2 was a presenter)  
Effective Communication Between the Bench and the Bar (Judge Loyce L. Ryan of General Sessions Criminal Court Div. 15 was a presenter)  
Legislative Update

### **2007 Bench Bar Conference:**

E Discovery  
Forensic Experts In Civil and Criminal Cases  
The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Courtroom and Law Office  
Legislative Updates  
Litigation in Commercial Real Estate Transactions  
Mediation  
Civil Action: Why Nice Lawyers Don't Always Finish Last